

CARR-800

Avondale Mill, site (Shriver's Mill)

Old New Windsor Pike (MD 852), Westminster

McGrain, John (2006) *The Molinography of Maryland*. (Maryland State Archives)

#### AVONDALE MILL

David Shriver, born at Conewago, Pa., founded a gristmill and tannery in 1760, HWM, p. 790. It was 2 miles SW of Westminster where Copps Branch joins Little Pipe Creek, at or near the mill symbol on the 1808 Charles Varlé map, at a site now called Avondale. The 1798 tax list showed David Shriver, Senr., with Good Fellowship, Content, and Mistake tracts, plus a log mill in Pipe Creek and Westminster Hundreds.

By 1882, Shriver's home was that of Augustus Shriver, HWM, p. 919. The 1877 atlas showed this as David Moul Mill, and Daniel Baker was listed as miller at Avondale in the 1887 State business directory. "The Avondale Flour Mill at Avondale, Md., was obliged to shut down in the middle of February on account of the ice, which cut off the water power," *American Miller*, 27 (March 1, 1889): 243.

The mill was carried on by William August Shriver until about 1911. Once a year, the neighbors helped shovel out the millrace. Mrs. Shriver always cooked two old roosters to feed the volunteers. A man in Westminster regularly bought all the eels found in the mud.

Dr. Tracey's papers contained the note, "Avondale Mill. The mill was built by Mr. Moul and bought by William A. Shriver about 1886. The mill was located on the New Windsor Road near Avondale. The mill was torn down about thirty-five years ago, but the mill race can still be traced today. The mill made flour and then turned to making feed, hominy, corn meal, and cracked corn. Report given by Mrs. Frank M. Beggs." [ca. 1960].

During the author's explorations, Avondale was the site of a modern feed mill on the Western Maryland Railroad [now Maryland Midland]. The railway stop was called Medford. The feed mill, now [1976] closed, handled Sherwood Feeds and distributed D. & G. hand poultry feed. The building was next to the tracks, a cream colored, clapboard structure.

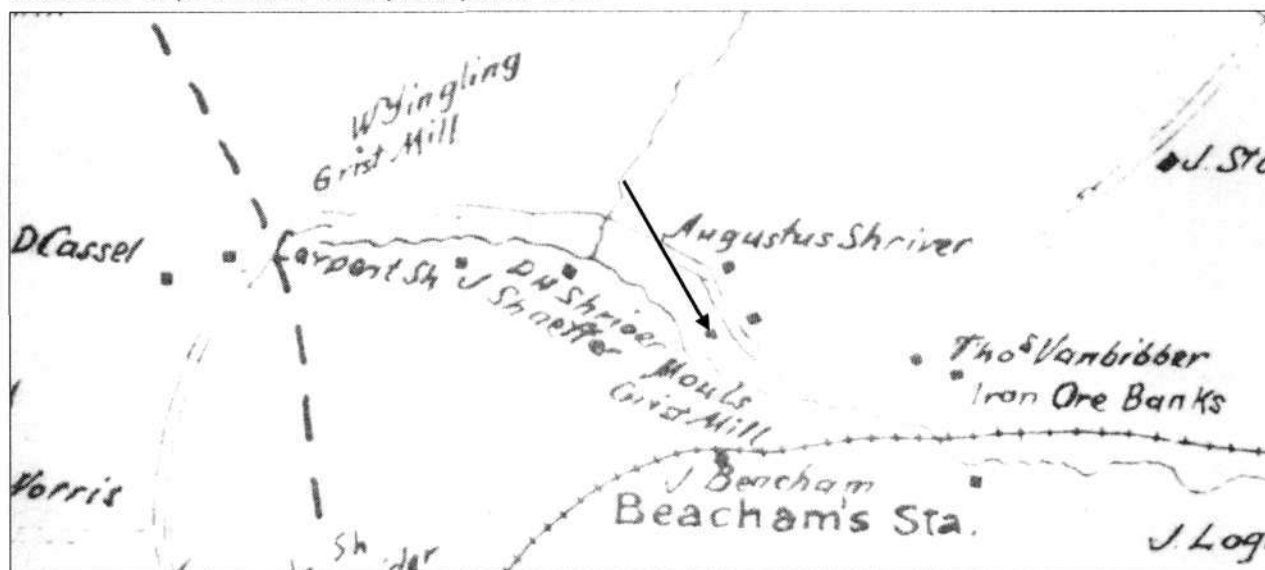
The feed mill was still standing October 25, 1987, but was empty and abandoned. The hardware warehouse next to it was still there. The railroad line still served the nearby Genstar quarry. A photograph of the Avondale Mill appeared in Joe Getty, *Carroll's Heritage*, p. 37.

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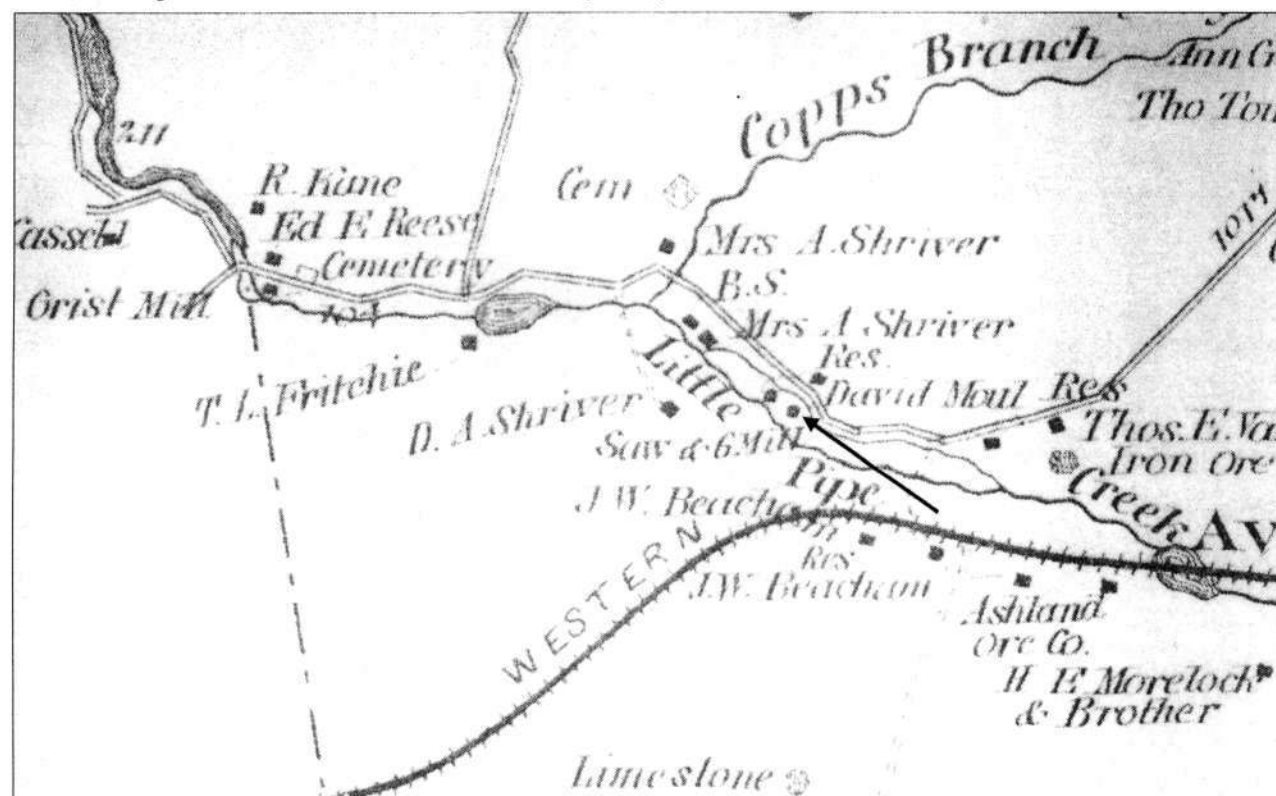
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Martenet's Map of Carroll County, Maryland, 1862



Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas of Carroll County, Maryland, 1877

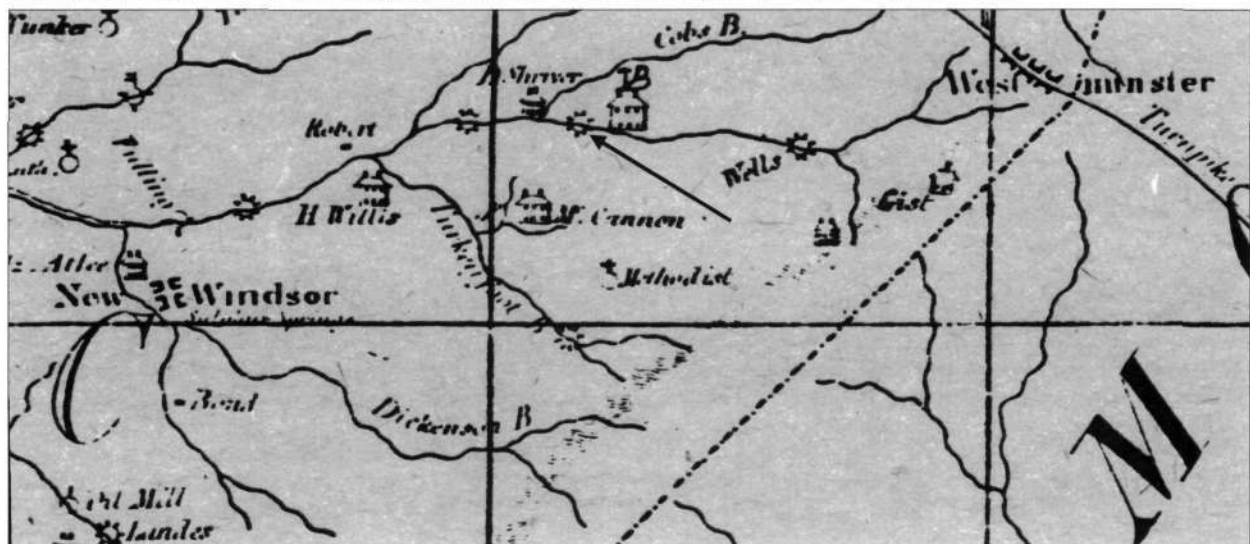


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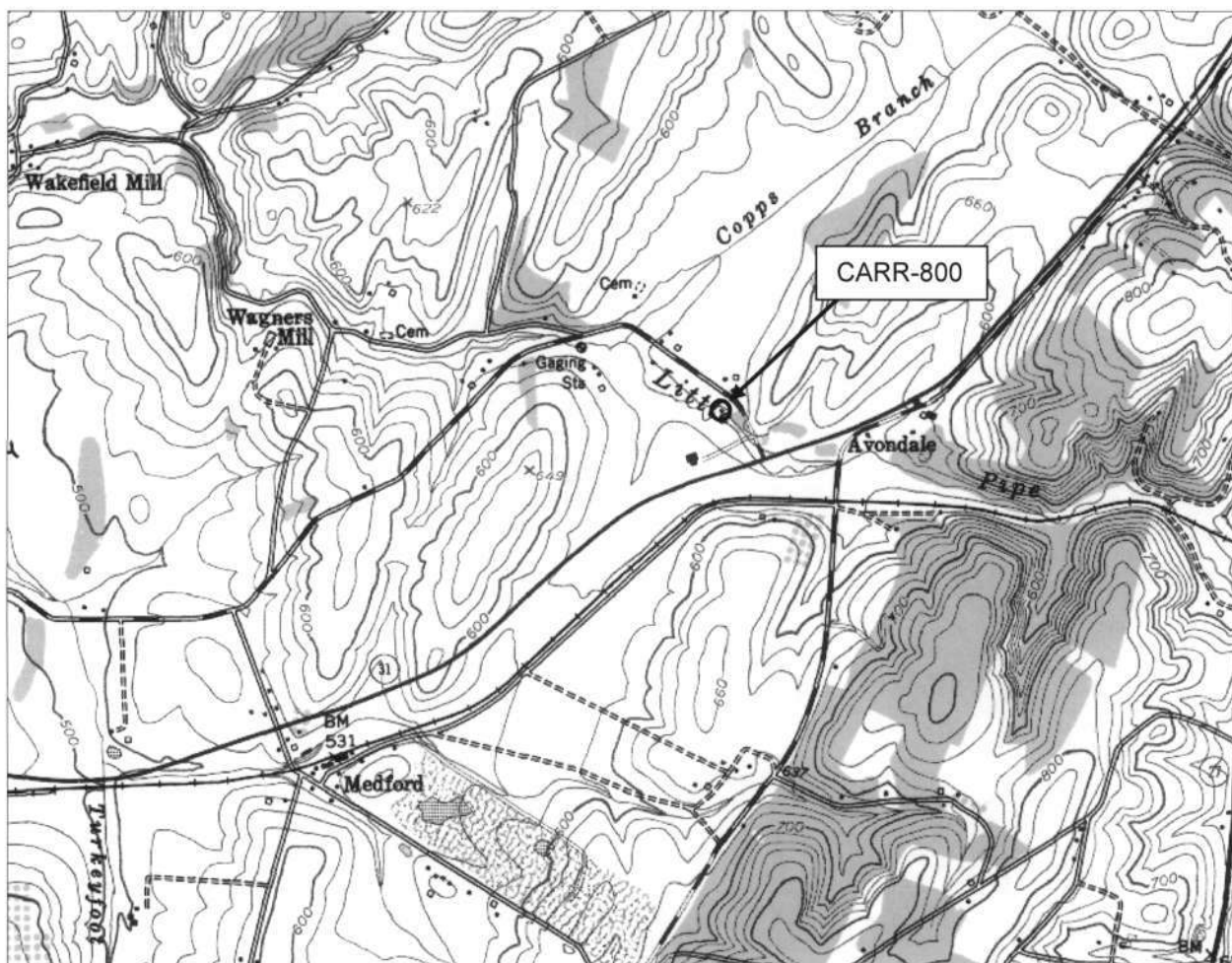
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A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, State of Maryland, 1808, Charles Varlé

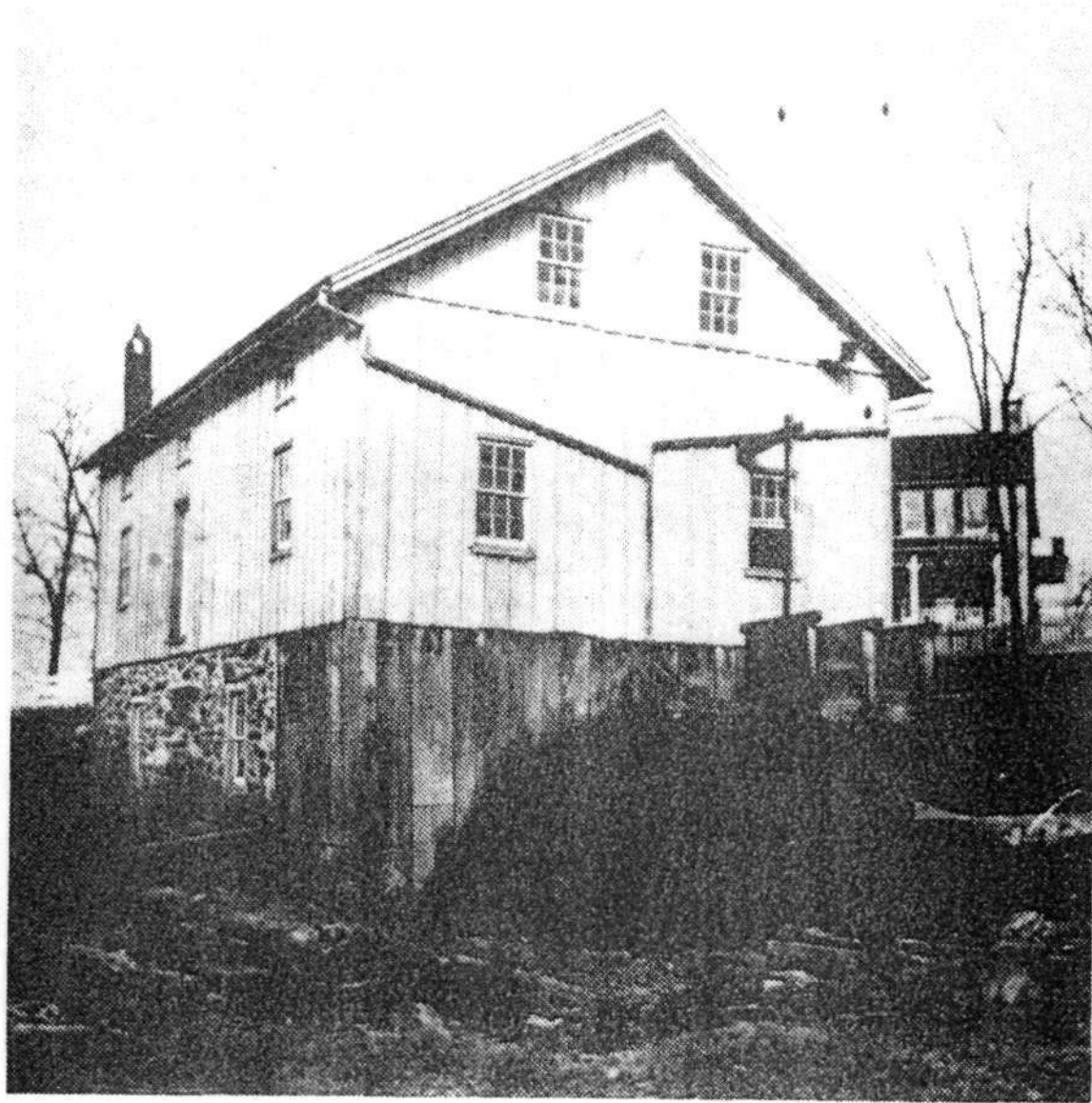


New Windsor Quadrangle



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Getty, Joe (1987) *Carroll's Heritage* (Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland). P. 37



*Avondale Mill. An example of the smaller scale mill representative of the 18th century technology. (HSCC)*